FAUNAL REGIONS

That branch of zoological science which treats of the geographical distribution of animals is known as zoogeography. None of the zoological sciences has contributed more to a knowledge of the facts with which zoogeography deals than the science of entomology.

Various divisions of the surface of the earth, based upon the character of the living beings which inhabit them, have been suggested. At the present time, however, it is agreed that in a general way five major subdivisions are sufficient for the purposes of the science, and we therefore recognize five faunal regions, namely, the *Palæarctic,* which includes the temperate regions of the eastern hemisphere; the *Indo-Malayan,* covering the tropics of Asia and the islands lying south of that great continent, including Australia; the *Ethiopian,* covering the continent of Africa south of the lands bordering on the Mediterranean, and extending northward into the southern part of Arabia; the *Neotropical,* covering the continent of South America and the islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico; and, finally, the *Nearctic,* covering the temperate and polar regions of North America. The butterflies with which this volume deals are mostly nearctic species, only a few species representing the neotropical region being found as stragglers into the extreme southern portion of the United States.

These five faunal regions are characterized by the presence of certain groups of insects which are more or less peculiar to them. In the Palaearctic Region, for instance, we find a very great development of the *Satyrinæ,* of the genera *Argynnis, Melitæa,* and *Lycæna,* and of the genus *Colias.* The genus *Papilio* is but poorly represented, there being only three species found on the entire continent of Europe, and comparatively few in Asia north

of the Himalayan mountain-ranges.

As soon as we pass from the boundaries of the Palaearctic Region into India there is discovered a great number of species of the genus *Papilio.* The *Euplœinæ,* of various genera, swarm, and splendid creatures, magnificent in color, present themselves, replacing among the *Nymphalinæ* the small and obscurely colored forms which are found among the mountains of Europe and on the great Asiatic steppes. In the Indo-Malayan Region one